

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-12, 30-34, and 39-44 are pending in the application.

Claims 4, 8-9, and 12 have been amended.

Claims 13-29 were previously cancelled.

Claims 35-38 have now been cancelled.

In the Office Action mailed July 20, 2004, the priority claim was not granted. Applicants have submitted a petition requesting that the priority claim be granted.

Claims 4 and 35 were objected to for failure to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 4 has been amended to refer to an associated hose. Claim 35 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 7, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yung (US Patent No. 6,484,350).

Claims 2-6 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of US Patent No. 6,256,834 to Meijer, et al.

Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of Meijer and further in view of US Patent No. 3,653,189 to Miyake, et al.

Claims 37 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of US Patent No. 5,979,014 to Reichow, et al. and US Patent No. 6,295,831 to Watson.

Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of US Patent No. 5,979,014 to Reichow, et al.

Claims 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of US Patent No. 3,599,273 to Shirayanagi, et al.

Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of Reichow, et al. and further in view of Meijer, et al.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung in view of Reichow, et al. and further in view of Miyake, et al.

Applicants submit herewith a declaration of the inventors under 37 C.F.R. §1.131. The declaration establishes that the invention of claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9,

11, and 12 was completed in this country prior to December 8, 1999, the claimed priority date of US Patent No. 6,484,350 to Yung. Additionally, the declaration establishes that the invention of at least those features of claims 30, 31-34, 39, 41, 42, and 44, said to be disclosed by Yung was completed in this country prior to the claimed priority date of US Patent No. 6,484,350 to Yung. The declaration is signed by all of the inventors except David DiNunzio, who is no longer available for signature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Yung be removed as a reference against these claims.

The secondary references, Meijer, et al., Reichow, et al., Shirayanagi, et al., Watson, and Miyaki, et al., do not disclose all of the features asserted to be disclosed by Yung. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-12, 30-34, and 39-44 are patentable over the references of record.

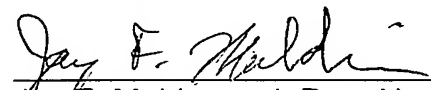
Claims 8 and 38 were rejected under 35 USC §101 for statutory type double patenting. Claim 8 has been amended and claim 38 is cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the statutory type double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 9-12 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over US 6,712,868. A terminal disclaimer accompanies this amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the obviousness type double patenting rejection be withdrawn

An early allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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